

Activities in the Camps

Army Camps Give Men All the Food They Can Eat

Investigator Finds No Cause for Complaint at Any Cantonment

Fruit and Dessert Top Robust Menus

Fare Includes Meat, Cereals, Eggs, Milk, Butter, Vegetables and Sweets

The Tribune has received a great many anxious and disquieting letters about National Army camp conditions. A staff writer was sent to visit and examine all the principal cantonments. He is now reporting. His articles are written from the camp point of view.

By Glendon Allvine

Article I.—FOOD

IN a camp in the Southwest, where daily dust storms leave a coating of grime on faces and food alike, a young patriot in a dirty uniform thus summed up his creed:

"I love my country, I want to fight for my country, but I hate to eat my country."

Dirt makes that camp the most disagreeable one in the United States. Wire screens and muslin over the windows of the mess halls fail to protect the food from dust. No wonder the meals are not always appetizing to the men.

But this camp is exceptional. It is the one place where the mess call is not the day's most welcome sound. At other camps the men are ready to eat first, last and all the time.

Drilling in the open from sunrise to sunset beats any artificial appetizer. The men in their training camps are just learning their gastronomic capacity.

Plenty of Muscle-Making Food

Good, wholesome food and plenty of it is what they are getting. It is plain, muscle-making fare. If the first generous helping still leaves a famished feeling, seconds and even thirds are available. Mess sergeants are certainly doing their best in making robust, well nourished soldiers.

Worried mothers have written The Tribune suggesting that their sons in the army are being poorly fed. One letter reads:

"It is so absurd to spend \$1,000,000 for books for our men and then not enough of that. They tell me it is quite a general thing in the camps, and men will have to get into the fighting ranks before they have the right sort of food. Please help me to do my bit, and publish this as soon as possible."

Publication was postponed until The Tribune could make a thorough investigation. In fourteen camps in various sections of the country the investigator chose mess-rooms at random, at which extra preparations for guests had not been made. The mess sergeant usually furnished an aluminum mess kit and portions of the food being served the enlisted men.

Potatoes Not German Fried

Witness this menu served privates in this company of federal guards:

BREAKFAST—Grapefruit, oatmeal and milk, cinnamon rolls, bread, butter, coffee.

DINNER—Roast beef, spaghetti, sweet potatoes, gravy, bread, pudding, tea.

SUPPER—Steak, American fried potatoes, pickled beets, bread, jelly, pears, coffee.

Clean fried potatoes have been banished by the patriots in that camp. A similar dish bears the American label. It should not be understood that grapefruit is served for breakfast daily. Other food takes its place on other breakfast menus.

In adjoining mess halls the bills of fare are different.

A hundred different meals may be served in one camp daily, and mess sergeants try to make the bill varied.

At Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, a company of infantry fared as follows:

BREAKFAST—Cornmeal mush, pears, bread, syrup, coffee.

DINNER—Hungarian beef, peas, boiled potatoes, bread, butter, tea.

SUPPER—Baked beans, potatoes au gratin, apple pie, bread, butter, coffee.

A machine gun company at Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kansas, had these rations one Thursday:

BREAKFAST—Bacon, boiled eggs, hashed brown potatoes, oatmeal and milk, bread and jelly, coffee.

DINNER—Braised beef, mashed potatoes, spaghetti and tomatoes, boiled beans, bread pudding, bread, tea.

SUPPER—Roast beef, baked potatoes, corn, baked apples, bread, tea.

Save on 40 Cents a Day

From these illustrations one may judge what the men are getting and getting to eat. Since they get plenty of it, and it is as a rule well cooked and cleanly served, no one need fear for their nourishment.

A fraction of a cent more than 40 cents a day is allowed for each man's rations. Mess sergeants plan their meals to keep within \$0.4017. Any saving they make on the month's budget is turned back into the mess fund for "extras" on special occasions. The mess fund is further augmented by proceeds from company exchanges, where enlisted men buy such fruits, candies, soft drinks and supplies as they feel they can afford.

No Grounds for Complaint

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